

APR 1 1940

Assistant Director, OCD

Assistant Director, ORE

Recent Anti-American Demonstrations.

REFERENCE: Collection Request No. 7306.1

1. CIA does not believe that the recent demonstrations in Habana (over the behavior of three US sailors), and in Ciudad Trujillo (over the behavior of certain US naval personnel) and in Panama (over the expulsion of Max Brodsky) can be fitted into any pattern with the Communist street demonstrations which have recently taken place in London, Rome and other foreign cities.

2. Specifically, the Brodsky expulsion demonstrations, we believe, represent the individual and wholly uncoordinated (from the international standpoint) reaction of Communist and fellow-traveller Panamanians to an event precipitated by positive action on the part of a capitalistic government. In other words, Panamanians, by expelling from the Republic an official connected with a large and influential labor union many members of which — the Communist issue quite apart — believe to be a satisfactory representative of their particular problems — created an issue which the Communists were quick to exploit to the full from the propaganda standpoint; an issue the value of which was further heightened from the Communist standpoint by the fact that there is some doubt among certain responsible non and anti-Communists over the constitutionality of the expulsion order as it was applied in Brodsky's case. In short, the anti-Communists made the first move and the Communists were quick to react.

3. In the case of the demonstrations in the Dominican Republic, the non-existence of a Communist apparatus in that country makes it most difficult to believe that the recent demonstrations there could (a) have been part of a Communist pattern, or (b) have been Communist inspired. On the contrary, we believe them to have been more or less the inevitable result of the pressures placed on a relatively primitive and isolated community by the presence in the area of an unusually large body of unattached and aggressive foreign males. The Communist and anti-US press in other countries was, of course, quick to seize upon the incident and exploit it from the propaganda standpoint.

Document No. 001

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 15/11/77 By: 871

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4. In the case of the demonstrations in Cuba, we do not believe that the incident itself was precipitated by Communist action nor do we believe it can be fitted into a pattern of Communist activity. The speed with which the incident was seized upon by the Communists in Cuba is, of course, evidence of the highly integrated and organized Communist apparatus in that country. We understand the Navy is investigating the Cuban incident to determine whether there was any planning in the presence of a photographer and the sailors' activity at that time. But, on the basis of evidence now available, we believe both the fact that a photographer was present when the incident occurred (an important factor in allowing the Communists fully to exploit the propaganda value of the incident) and the fact that the sailors selected the statue of Marti rather than any other statue in all Havana upon which to commit the incident were purely fortuitous.

THEODORE HABBITT

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